

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-03 MC-02 ACDA-05 /033 W

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R 060700Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2976

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5900

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: A-4 SKY HAWK FIGHTERS

REF: STATE 101239

1. IT IS FAIRLY NORMAL FOR INDIVIDUAL PHILIPPINE MILITARY SERVICES TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN MORE EQUIPMENT THAN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (GHQ) CAN FAVORABLY CONSIDER. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF INTEREST BY GHQ IN ACQUISITION OF A-4 AIRCRAFT. NORMAL CHANNEL FOR MAJOR PURCHASES IS FROM SERVICE CONCERNED, I.E., ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE TO GHQ, WHERE SERVICE PERCEIVED NEEDS ARE RECONCILED WITH BUDGET REALITIES AND AN OVERALL PRIORITY LISTING OF ARMED FORCES NEEDS IS FORMED. IF PROCUREMENT IS TO BE THROUGH MILITARY AID CHANNELS, JUSMAG IS THEN NOTIFIED OF NEED.

2. GOP AND PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE HAVE HAD LONG STANDING REQUIREMENT TO EXPAND THEIR AIR DEFENSE NETWORK TO INCLUDE SOUTHERN HALF OF COUNTRY. THIS EXPANSION WILL REQUIRE ADDITION OF AIR DEFENSE FIGHTERS OR DUAL PURPOSE FIGHTERS/ATTACK AIRCRAFT SUCH AS THE F-5 TYPE. WHILE THE WORLDWIDE RECORD OF A-4 AIRCRAFT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF REGARDING ITS MERITS
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AS ATTACK AIRCRAFT, MOST A-4 VERSIONS COMPLETELY LACK

AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT OR CAPABILITY, THE INITIAL COST AND UPKEEP OF TWO DISTINCT AND COMPLETELY SEPARATE SETS OF MODERN JET AIRCRAFT, I.E., ATTACK AND AIR DEFENSE, IS OUTSIDE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE REACH OF MOST SMALLER COUNTRIES. IN PAST, PAF AND GHQ HAVE STATED THAT FUTURE ACQUISITION OF MODERN JET FIGHTERS MUST BE DUAL CAPABLE GENERAL PURPOSE AIRPLANES.

3. WE ASSUME THE GOP WILL NOT OFFICIALLY EXPRESS A DESIRE TO PURCHASE A-4'S. HOWEVER, SHOULD REQUEST FOR LICENSE BE SUBMITTED IN WASHINGTON, REQUEST EMBASSY/MAG BE ADVISED SO WE MAY DETERMINE APPROPRIATENESS OF EQUIPMENT VERSUS CURRENT NEEDS.
SULLIVAN

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